Testing Program

lso known as the State Capitol
Test Rose Garden, the program
receives 20 donated roses a year
from growers such as:

C3 All-American Rose SocietyC3 WeeksC3 Jackson & PerkinsC3 Conard-Pyle Co.C3 Angelica Nurseries

In the test garden program, rose producers submit specimen roses to rose gardens around the United States under a two-year testing program. A judge, typically a horticulture professor or garden supervisor, is assigned to each test garden and grades the roses by: vigor, growth habit, disease resistance, foliage, flower production, bud and flower form, opening and finishing color, fragrance, stem and overall value. Other criteria for the Capitol rose garden include the condition of the beds and the roses themselves, as well as watering.

The scoring system is based on consumer demand for beautiful and easy-growing roses. Roses come to the test garden with only a number; they are later named, graded, then sold to the public.

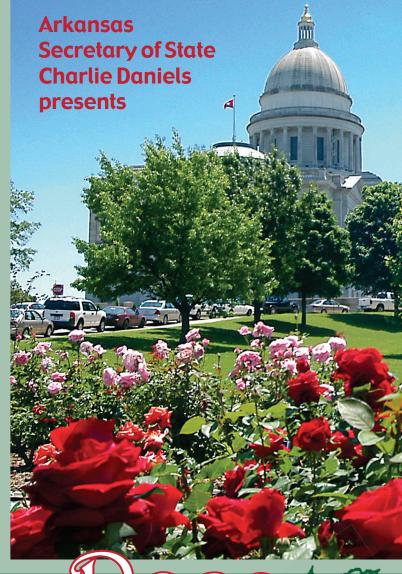


Arkansas Secretary of State

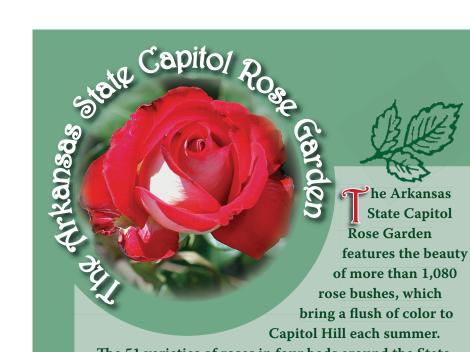
Charlie Daniels

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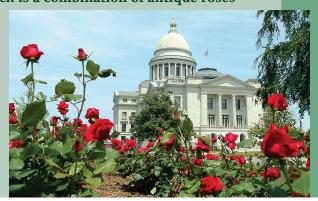
the ROSQUE State Capitol Tarden



The 51 varieties of roses in four beds around the State Capitol grounds are a highlight for the Capitol's 100,000 visitors each year.

A stroll along the beds near the State Supreme Court on the Capitol's southwest side takes you by a kaleidoscope of blooms that are just the right height for enjoying their fragrance. Venture to the sunny north lawn and take in a glorious range of colored blooms. The impressive collection of rose varieties includes hybrid teas, grandifloras, floribundas, miniatures, shrub roses and climbers. Visitors will also admire the collection's English rose, which is a combination of antique roses

(introduced before 1867, particularly from the 18th and 19th centuries) and modern roses from the 20th century.



Pampering and Pruning

ardeners at the State Capitol gardeners prune the roses each February under the watchful

eye of Arkansas rosarians.
They come to the capitol to
oversee pruning and teach
proper techniques in order
to encourage bud production
and improve the quality
of blooms.



Routine care of the roses includes spraying for fungus and insects, as well as regular fertilizing. Beds are kept clear of grass and weeds, and dead leaves and stems



around Arkansas.

are removed from the roses. Generous mulching keeps grass at bay and retains moisture.

Along with the test roses each year, the State Capitol Gardens receive roses that have been on the market

for a few years. The fresh plants are used to replace older roses every three years. Test roses stay in place for two years to be graded. The removed plants take on a new life as they are donated to schools and organizations in order to share the beauty